

CHILD PROTECTION ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

Education Commission

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

JW Collette Education Resource Center – Conference Room A

Welcome: The Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC) Education Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at the JW Collette Education Resource Center in Dover by Chairperson Susan Haberstroh.

Attendees: Susan Haberstroh (DOE), Jamie Caruso (UD PBSP), PJ Facciolo (Brandywine), Rachael Neff (Family Court), Judge Kenneth Millman (Family Court), Brittany Willard (OCA), Judge Barbara Crowell (Family Court), Joyce Hawkins (PBH), Dr. Harvey Doppelt (PBH), Kathie Herel (PIC), Kittie Rehrig (Appoquinimink), Jennifer Davis (DOE), Tracy Neugebauer (DOE), Heather Alford (DSCYF), Joann Bruch (DFS), Eliza Hirst (OCA), Leba Kaufmann (OCA), Wendy Strauss (GACEC)

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the December 9, 2015 meeting minutes.

Discussion

Strategic Plan to Improve Education Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care: Eliza Hirst

Data

Eliza Hirst presented a summary of statewide educational data for youth in foster care. Nationally, foster youth are three times more likely to move; more likely to be in special education; and more likely to be suspended and expelled. Although attendance rates for youth in foster care are generally poor, Delaware's attendance rates are higher than the national average. The data shows there is a dip in attendance for eleventh grade, but then attendance rates increase again for twelfth grade. Committee members noted that once students make it to eleventh grade, they are more likely to graduate.

The graduation rate for youth in foster care is roughly 30% less than that for the general student population. Delaware is higher than the national average when it comes to special education identification. Roughly 40% of foster children are identified as special education students as opposed to 15% of the general population.

Only 4% of foster youth scored proficient in math on the Smarter Balanced Test, as

opposed to 25% of the general population. Although there is still a significant discrepancy between foster youth and non-foster youth, Susan Haberstroh noted that the Smarter Balanced Test is a new test and is significantly harder than tests given in the past. Similar discrepancies were found for English proficiency scores as well as on DCAS scores. Delaware's data discrepancies between youth in foster care and those not in foster care appears to be in line with other state's data.

Strategic Plan

A group of stakeholders met on February 4, 2016 to create a strategic plan to improve the education outcomes of youth involved in the child welfare system and to decrease the educational discrepancies between foster youth and the general population. To address the social and emotional needs of students, the group determined that a peer learning community composed of representatives from six interested school districts should be created to share experience, ideas, and initiatives relating to improving the social and emotional environment within schools. This group will build upon and enhance the work of the Compassionate Schools Program, the Positive Behavior Supports Project, and other successful programs. This group will eventually create a written guide for districts across the state to implement a comprehensive and holistic trauma-informed school environment to improve the education outcomes of youth in foster care. The second group identified several objectives to improve interagency cooperation and coordination including a pilot for the education court report. Recently, Michelle Marinucci created a template on EdInsight Dashboard that would collect a comprehensive student summary of a student with the click of a button. Not only can this report be generated in a manner of minutes, but it can be directly emailed to any recipient who must collect the report. Among other things, the report shows attendance rates for the past two years; current classes and grades; and all recent disciplinary incidents. The template should be finalized within the next month and the Data Workgroup will begin training school districts and state agencies on its use this summer. Heather Alford noted that this report will also serve as an ideal educational screening tool for youth first entering foster care.

The MOU will be placed on hold pending the recommendations of the new ESSA Workgroup that will identify additional supports for youth in foster care mandated by the new education law. Finally, the Data Workgroup will continue to collect and analyze data regarding students in foster care and to create ways to measure student progress within the foregoing programs to determine where the Committee should continue its efforts.

The Committee unanimously approved the Strategic Plan.

Legislation:

Training on reporting and detection of child abuse for teachers and other staff

Currently, 14 Del C. Section 4123, requires that all full time teachers receive one hour of training by DFS each year in detecting and reporting child abuse. Eliza Hirst presented the proposed following amendments to this law:

- (1) Expand the training requirement to include all school employees, rather than only full time teachers; and
- (2) Require that the training be prepared by the Child Protection Accountability Commission and approved by DFS, rather than only DFS.

"School employee" includes all persons hired by a school district, attendance zone or charter school; subcontractors such as bus drivers or security guards; substitute employees; and persons hired by or subcontracted by other state agencies to work on school property. 14 Del. C. Section 4112(a)(7)

Eliza Hirst noted that this language mirrors the training requirement mandated by 14 Del C. Section 4123A, relating to school bullying prevention and criminal youth gang detection training, which is already required by all school employees each year for one hour.

After significant discussion regarding the draft legislation, members of the Committee voiced concerns that the legislation would be too burdensome on schools and that it would not be practical to implement. It was suggested that shorter trainings or refresher courses could be provided instead, saving school employees valuable time.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee agreed to amend the legislation by:

- (1) Removing the time requirement that child abuse and detection training must be for at least one hour each year, allowing schools to provide shorter refresher courses for experienced employees;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of September 1, 2016; and
- (3) Making minor, technical amendments to the Synopsis.

A motion was made and seconded to move the legislation out of the Committee

with the foregoing amendments. PJ Facciolo opposed the motion; Judge Crowell and Judge Millman abstained; and the rest of the Committee approved.

Workgroup Reports

MOU Workgroup

The MOU Workgroup will be suspended pending the recommendations of the new ESSA Workgroup. The draft MOU has already incorporated previous changes made by various agencies and will eventually incorporate those changes recommended by the ESSA Workgroup and hopefully, the new education court report.

Collaboration Workgroup

The Collaboration Workgroup did not get a chance to meet. It is still receiving comments on the draft education decision maker legislation. Similar legislation was just brought to the Legislature that appoints an education decision maker for those receiving special education services that reach the age of majority. Eliza Hirst will be meeting with the DOE and other stakeholders regarding the elements of this legislation.

Data Workgroup

Brittany Willard received updated data from the Department of Education this week. Eliza Hirst reviewed current data at the beginning of the meeting. The Workgroup would like to provide trainings over the summer to school districts on data collection, including the use of the education court report template created by Michelle Marinucci. DFS is waiting for data from the DOE regarding transportation costs for youth in foster care.

ESSA Workgroup

Susan Haberstroh announced the creation of a new ESSA Workgroup. This short-term workgroup will identify how the new ESSA legislation affects youth in foster care and what new state processes or supports may need to be put in place. Jennifer Davis will service as the chairperson. Additional members who are interested in

joining the workgroup are Wendy Strauss, Eliza Hirst, Leba Kaufmann, Tracy Neugebauer, JoAnn Bruch, Kathie Herel, and Barbara Mazza.

EdInsight Dashboard in DSCYF –Kathleen Devine

No updated was provided regarding Dashboard because Kathleen Devine was not able to attend the meeting.

Public Comment

No public comments were received.

Next Meeting Dates:

- July 13, 2016, 3:30 p.m. Library conference room at the Townsend Building at the Department of Education
- September 14, 2016, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Cabinet Room at Townsend Building
- December 14, 2016, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Cabinet Room at Townsend Building

To Do:

- Eliza Hirst will amend the child abuse training legislation and transfer it to the Legislative Committee.
- Susan will find out who has access to PDMS.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Susan Haberstroh.

Minutes submitted by Leba Kaufmann on March 10, 2016.